

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 217796

44

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 PCH-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 NSC-10 H-03 /131 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS
APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS
S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL
H MIS S FOLGER (INFO)
NEA/EGY - MR. STERNER
UR/P - MR. SAVAGE

----- 044925

R 052121Z NOV 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 217796

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

UNCLAS STATE 217796

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
NOVEMBER 5, 1973:

QUOTE: Q. WOULD YOU SAY THAT THROUGH THE RESULT OF THE
VISITS OF BOTH MADAM MEIR AND MR. FAHMI, THE EMPHASIS ON
MR. KISSINGER'S TALKS WITH THE ARAB LEADERS ARE GOING TO BE
ON A GENERAL SETTLEMENT, ALONG THE LINE OF A GENERAL
SETTLEMENT, OR RATHER ON KEEPING THE CEASE-FIRE IN
EXISTENCE?

A. I THINK YOU HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE SITUATION WE ARE IN.
YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE HAVE TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION ON THE
GROUND AND THE ISSUES INVOLVED THERE AS A WAY TO PREPARE
TO MOVE ON TO NEGOTIATION. I DON'T THINK YOU CAN DISSOCIATE
ANY PARTICULAR ITEM OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT HE IS INVOLVED
IN THAT WHOLE PACKAGE.

Q. AS A RESULT OF THE MARATHON OF TALKS BETWEEN THE
EGYPTIANS, THE ISRAELIS AND OURSELVES OVER THE PAST FEW
DAYS, ARE WE ANY MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT A RESOLVE OF THE
GROUND ISSUES?

A. I DON'T THINK I COULD GIVE YOU ANYTHING FURTHER THAN THE
VERY VAGUE POSITION WHICH BOB MCCLOSKEY LEFT YOU WITH
LAST WEEK. TALKS ARE CONTINUING AND EVENTS WILL SPEAK FOR
THEMSELVES.

Q. I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND YOUR ANSWER TO THE PREVIOUS
QUESTION. ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU CAN'T TALK ABOUT A
CEASE-FIRE EXCEPT IN THE CONTEXT OF AN OVERALL SETTLE-
MENT?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 217796

A. THE POINT WAS I WOULD NOT CHARACTERIZE WHETHER THE
SECRETARY WAS MORE PRECISELY INVOLVED IN CONCENTRATING ON
A CEASE-FIRE OR IN PRESERVING THIS AREA FROM ANY OUTBREAK
OF HOSTILITIES, OR WHETHER HE WAS INVOLVED IN LOOKING AT
THE LARGER ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN A PEACE
SETTLEMENT. I WOULD SAY HE HAS BOTH ASPECTS IN MIND AS
HE LEAVES HERE.

Q. THE ISRAELIS ARE PAYING A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION TO THE BLOCKADE AT THE BAB EL MANDEB WHICH WAS A LITTLE MUTED EARLIER ON. BUT THEY SAY THERE IS A FULL-FLEDGED BLOCKADE BY EGYPTIAN NAVAL UNITS AND SOUTH YEMENI SPEED BOATS ARMED WITH BAZOOKAS. CAN THE UNITED STATES CONFIRM THAT THIS BLOCKADE EXISTS? AND IF IT DOES, HAVE WE ADDRESSED OURSELVES TO ANY OF THE GOVERNMENTS ALLEGED TO BE MAINTAINING IT?

A. I DON'T HAVE THE DETAILS ON THE BLOCKADE, BUT I LUMP THE BLOCKADE, TO WHATEVER EXTENT IT IS BEING CARRIED OUT, IN WITH THAT BROAD RANGE OF PROBLEMS WHICH ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BE LOOKED AT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CEASE-FIRE, IMPROVING RELATIONS AND HOPEFULLY LEADING ON IN DUE COURSE TO A PEACE SETTLEMENT OR NEGOTIATIONS. BUT I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY SPECIAL ACTION THAT HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY OUR GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO THIS BLOCKADE.

Q. YOU SPEAK OF IT AS THOUGH IT EXISTS. CAN THE UNITED STATES VERIFY THAT IT EXISTS?

A. I JUST SAID "ALLEGED" BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS OF IT.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER THE UNITED STATES HAS MADE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION ON THE GROUND, AND WHETHER IT BELIEVES THAT THE TALK OF WAR IS REALLY BEING BACKED UP BY MOVEMENTS TO START THE WAR AGAIN IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I DON'T THINK I SHOULD GET INTO ANYTHING WHICH WILL EITHER ADD TO OR SUBTRACT FROM THE REPORTS THERE. I DON'T

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 217796

WISH TO CREATE THE BELIEF THAT WE ARE MOVING CLOSER TO WAR. THAT IS NOT WHAT WE ARE WORKING FOR. I AM NOT AWARE THAT WE HAVE SPECIAL INFORMATION WHICH WOULD POINT TO THE FACT THAT WE ARE ON THE BRINK OF WAR, AS SOME NEWSPAPER REPORTS HAVE IT. IT IS NATURAL, IN A TIME OF A CEASE-FIRE, WITH THE EFFORT GOING ON TO FIND A WAY TO MOVE TO SETTLEMENT OF ISSUES IN NEGOTIATION, THAT PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES ARE TENSE. BUT IT REMAINS OUR HOPE AND ALL OUR EFFORTS WILL BE AIMED AT A RESOLUTION OF THE ON-THE-GROUND SITUATION. AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE WORKING FOR NOW, AS WELL AS USING THIS AS A STEP TOWARDS NEGOTIATION. END QUOTE. RUSH

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED SANAA.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE217796
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JEBRIGGS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731154/aaaabnov.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Dec-2001 by damankm0>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
TAGS: PFOR
To: AMMAN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005